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Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names
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Item 5 of the provisional agenda*
Reports by Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names since the Tenth Conference (for distribution only)

National report of New Zealand

Summary**

The national report of New Zealand is provided according to resolution V/7 of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. It builds upon previous national reports submitted by New Zealand for the Ninth and Tenth Conferences, held in 2007 and 2012.

A historical timeline of informal and formal naming influences contained in the report provides a snapshot to illustrate the long-term, structured and deliberate application of toponyms in New Zealand and the extended jurisdiction of the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa. The statutory role, functions and strategic goals of the Board are summarized and a flow diagram is provided to represent, in brief, the process followed for regular geographic name proposals. The core activities listed in the report represent the fundamental work of the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa and its secretariat. Initiatives for the upcoming year will contribute to the strategic goals of the Board. Several challenges, and the corresponding actions taken to resolve them, are highlighted in the report. In particular, changes to three geographic names that had offensive connotations.

* E/CONF.105/1.

** The full report was prepared by Wendy Shaw, Secretary, New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa. The report is available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf11.html, in the language of submission only, as document E/CONF.105/37/CRP.37.

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